

FILED

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

In the Matter of	:	
	:	Administrative Action
VIRGINIA LOVELY CSW	:	
	:	
Licensed to Practice Social Work:	:	CONSENT ORDER
in the State of New Jersey	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") on the basis of information received that on or about April 12, 1999 a Consent Agreement was entered between Virginia Lovely ("respondent"), a Licensed Social Worker in the State of West Virginia and the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners. The Findings of Fact in the Consent Agreement disclose, among other things, that sometime during April 1998, respondent signed a student out of school at Webster County High School. While with this student, respondent purchased alcohol for the student and his friend, who were both under the legal age for purchasing alcohol. Thereafter, respondent engaged in sexual activity with the student. Such conduct violated W. Va. Code § 30-

30-7(a)(3) and The National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. Respondent was suspended for a minimum of three months with reinstatement contingent on complying with other provisions of the Consent Order. Respondent's conduct constitutes gross malpractice and professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c) and (e), and said conduct was the basis of a suspension of respondent's social work license by the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners, and this additional basis exists for discipline pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(g).

By letter of September 16, 1999, respondent wrote to the Board requesting that she be allowed to keep her certification and continue working as a social worker. In support of this request, she advised the Board of certain mitigating facts relating to this matter. She stated that the student was eighteen years of age and he was not a client. Respondent further stated that she has been divorced since April 1998 at which time she voluntarily entered a hospital for psychiatric treatment and was diagnosed with severe depression. After a nine day stay at the hospital, she continued to receive outpatient counseling while residing at a domestic violence shelter. When respondent moved to New Jersey in July 1998, she continued her counseling through Catholic Charities until her counselor advised her that the sessions could end in December 1998. Shortly thereafter, she was hired at Youth Consultation Services. Respondent contends that she is now mentally and emotionally stable due to her divorce, counseling and a fresh start in New Jersey.

It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without resort to formal disciplinary proceedings and that good cause exists for the entry of the within Order,

IT IS ON THIS *29th* DAY OF *November* 1999,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for a period of four years commencing upon the entry of the within Consent Order. The first two years of the suspension shall be active, and the remaining two years shall be stayed and shall serve as a period of probation conditioned upon full compliance with the terms of the within Consent Order and the statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey governing the practice of social work.

2. Upon respondent's signing of the within Consent Order, respondent shall immediately return by registered mail her New Jersey certification to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

3. The active suspension of respondent's license to practice social work means that respondent shall not hold herself out as a social worker or practice social work in this State or any other state, including but not limited to, exempt settings as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5.

4. Commencing upon the entry of the within Consent Order, respondent shall engage in weekly psychotherapy for a minimum of

twelve months with a therapist approved by the Board, and respondent shall provide the therapist with a copy of this Consent Order. Respondent shall cause the therapist to provide quarterly reports directly to the Board with respect to her attendance and progress in therapy.

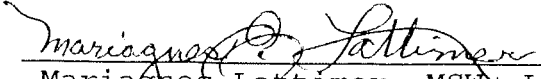
5. Respondent shall successfully complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education concerning ethics, particularly boundary issues, which courses shall be completed during the active two years of the suspension. Prior to taking the course/courses, respondent shall write to the Board for approval of the course/courses, and receive written approval by the Board. Respondent shall also be required to submit to the Board written proof of successful completion of the required course work.

6. Prior to reinstatement, respondent shall appear before the Board to demonstrate her ability and fitness to practice social work in the State of New Jersey.

7. Respondent shall scrupulously comply henceforth with the laws of the State of New Jersey and in particular the statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey regarding the practice of Social Work, including but not limited to, abstaining from any form of dual relationships or sexual relationships with clients (current clients or ones terminated within the past two years.) Upon proof of any violation of the within Consent Order or any violations of the laws of New Jersey, the Board in its discretion may activate any remaining periods of stayed suspension or impose any other

appropriate sanction authorized by law.

STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS


Mariagnes Lattimer, MSW, LCSW
President

I have read the within Order
and understand its terms. I
hereby consent to its entry and
to be bound by the Order's terms.


Virginia Lovely, CSW